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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/598,968	06/22/2000	Manfred Berndt	4481-021	8551

7590

11/26/2002

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EXAMINER

BROWN, JENNINE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1743

DATE MAILED: 11/26/2002

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/598,968	BERNDT, MANFRED	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jennine M. Brown	1743	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 18-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 18-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 18-25 constitute new matter. Regarding claim 18, there is no support for the cooperating structures of the interface element to rotatively lock into the holder. Regarding claim 19, there is no support for the cooperating structures for enabling the holder to lock into and be released and removed from the housing. Regarding claim 20, there is no support for the interface element and the holder having structures for enabling the interface element to be releasably connectable to the holder so that the interface element can be selectively secured to and removed from the holder. Regarding claim 21, there is no support for the cooperating structures for enabling the housing to lock into and be released and removed from the holder. Regarding claim 22, there is no support for the interface element and holder having structures for enabling the interface element to be releasably connectable to the holder and housing. Regarding claims 23-25, there is no

support for a system or device having plural microchips with different microfluidic configurations to be interchangeably used.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over co-pending Application 09/595420. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-12 and 14 in application **09/598968** specify a microfluidic chip and a device for receiving the microfluidic chip, supplying it with electrical power, and methods of fluid movement within the chip using a holder for carrying the interface element with a structure

enabling the interface element to be releasably connectable to the holder. Similarly, the specification and claims in application **09/595420** specify a microfluidic chip and a device for receiving the microfluidic chip, supplying it with electrical power, and methods of fluid movement within the chip using a holder for carrying the interface element with a structure enabling the interface element to be releasably connectable to the hold.

The device of claims 1-12 and 14 is encompassed by the device and improvements of application **09/598968**.

Claims 1-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) because the applicant did not invent the claimed subject matter. The invention claimed in this application is fully encompassed by the specification and claims of a previously submitted application, 09/595420. See discussion supra.

Response to Arguments

1. 102(e) RE: claims 1-2, 6-14

Claim 1 has been sufficiently amended to obviate Examiner's rejection over Chow, et al. (US 5989402). Chow, et al. do not specifically teach a holder for carrying the interface element to be releasably connectable to the holder (74) so that the interface element can be selectively secured to and removed from the holder as shown in Figure 4c. The copending Application claims and specification are not limited to a cartridge and applicants specification specifically states that an interface element with previously mentioned features is included in their copending Apparatus for the Operation of a Microfluidic Device.

2. 103(a) RE: claims 3-5

Claim 1 has been sufficiently amended to obviate Examiner's rejection over Chow, et al. (US 598402) in view of Shoji (1994). Neither Chow, et al. nor Shoji specifically teach a holder for carrying the interface element to be releasably connectable to the holder (74) so that the interface element can be selectively secured to and removed from the holder as shown in Figure 4c.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13 and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Prior art of record does not teach or suggest the use of a Hall Sensor/magnet pair, a shutoff responsive to the Hall Sensor/magnet pair or a warning device responsive to the Hall Sensor/magnet pair.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the


shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennine M. Brown whose telephone number is (703) 305-0435. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (703) 308-4037. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 879-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

jmb
November 21, 2002


Jill Warden
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700